

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 MCT-01 /078 W  
-----010300Z 000189 /70

R 311007Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASGDC 3405  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0524

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BG, IN  
SUBJ: BORDER TALKS ARE SIMPLY RESTATEMENT OF POSITIONS

REF: A) DACCA 0305; B) DACCA 0443

1. THE JANUARY 27-29 EXERCISE IN BORDER DISCUSSIONS  
BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH RESULTED IN EACH SIDE  
REPEATING THE ACCUSATIONS AND DEFENSES AGAINST THEM WHICH  
HAVE CHARACTERIZED THIS DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
THE MEETINGS ENDED WITHOUT A FORMAL STATEMENT BUT LEADERS  
OF BOTH SIDES (ASHWINI KUMAR FOR INDIA AND MAJ. GENERAL  
DASTAGIR FOR BD) MET THE PRESS AT DACCA AIRPORT JANUARY 29.

2. ASHWINI KUMAR FLATLY DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT OF INDIA  
IN THE ACTIVITIES OF "MISCREANTS", SAID THAT WHATEVER  
INCIDENTS HE HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT OCCURRED INSIDE  
BANGLADESH TERRITORY AND INDIA WAS NOT IMPLICATED IN  
THEM, AND, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF TIGER  
SIDDIQUI, RESPONDED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE QUESTION WAS  
BETTER DIRECTED TO THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT. HE  
SAID INDIA PROVIDED NO TRAINING OR SANCTUARY FOR THOSE  
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OPERATING AGAINST THE BANGLADESH REGIME.

3. DASTAGIR PROVIDED THE PRESS WITH FIGURES WHICH ALLEGED  
THAT 1316 INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED IN THE LAST ELEVEN MONTHS  
AND THAT 56 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 48 INJURED. HE  
GAVE NO DATA ON MILITARY, PARAMILITARY OR POLICE LOSSES.  
HE SAID THAT 145 "MISCREANTS" HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND ANOTHER

47 SURRENDERED.

4. INDIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER DAS DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS "A WASTE OF TIME" IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 30 WITH POLCOUNSELOR. HE SAID ASHWINI KUMAR MADE NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH ARE LIVING IN CALCUTTA BUT TOLD THE BANGLADESHIS THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND NOT ENGAGED IN ACTIVE PLOTTING AGAINST BDG. AWHINI KUMAR ALSO ASKED BANGLADESHIS ABOUT SUPPORT INDIA CLAIMS BDG IS GIVING TO DISAFFECTED MIZOS AND RECEIVED IN REPLY A FLAT DENIAL. DAS SAID IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT BDG WAS BLAMING INDIA FOR INTERNAL PROBLEM WHICH IT SHOULD CONTROL ITSELF.

5. COMMENT: INDIAN DENIALS, OF COURSE, DO NOT TALLY WITH REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT INDICATE INDIA HAS (AND, PERHAPS, STILL IS) GIVING SOME SUCCOUR TO DISSIDENTS. DAS' POINT, HOWEVER, THAT BDG COULD IMPROVE ITS OWN CONTROLS IS ALSO VALID. IT IS WORTH NOTING AGAIN, AS WE HAVE REPORTED (REFTEL B), HOWEVER, THAT "MISCREANTS" ACTIVITY DURING CURRENT ELECTIONS HERE HAS BEEN ALL BUT NON-EXISTENT.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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